

Maryland General Assembly Sine Die Report

PROGRESS ON MHA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Support Hospitals' Budget Priorities

MHA secured **\$80 million for the Hospital Workforce Fund** to support hospital staff recruitment and retention efforts. This is the largest direct investment to Maryland's hospitals in over a decade.

MHA also secured **\$7.4 million in loan repayment** for physicians, physician assistants, and nurses, up from \$400,000 in FY 2020.

The General Assembly also maintained full funding for **MHA's Capital Bond Program** for the 10 projects recommended by the Bond Review Committee. They also committed to increasing funding for the program in future years.



Strengthen Maryland's Hospital Workforce

MHA's top priority this session was your top challenge: workforce. Together, MHA and the hospital field successfully advocated for several bills that will **help hospitals support their staff and build a pipeline of dedicated caregivers**. The legislature passed bills to:

- Establish a **Commission to study the health care workforce crisis in Maryland**
- Require the Maryland Department of Health to lead a work group to create a **public awareness campaign to prevent violence** in health care settings
- Continue ability to fast track **licensing for physicians in compact states**



Improve Maryland's Liability Climate

With a boost from an independent report demonstrating the need to reform Maryland's medical liability climate, **MHA secured a commitment from Senate President Bill Ferguson to convene an interim legislative work group on medical liability**.

MHA also successfully **DEFEATED** several trial-attorney backed bills this session that would have:

- ✗ Created a new COVID worker's compensation presumption for health care workers
- ✗ Expanded the authority of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office
- ✗ Required medical records to include audit trails, circumventing discovery processes

ADDITIONAL MHA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Advanced** legislation requiring Medicaid reimbursement for community violence intervention services
- **Expanded** Medicaid coverage for expectant Maryland mothers, regardless of citizenship status, and for their children up to the age of one year
- **Amended** legislation to establish interim multi-agency work group to facilitate information sharing to determine retroactive eligibility for free care
- **Defeated** legislation that would have expanded the scope of direct entry midwifery, risking patient safety
- **Enabled** hospital exemptions from climate solutions provisions to account for unique energy needs
- **Passed** legislation dedicating \$1 million annually for the state patient safety center to support quality improvement initiatives
- **Established** permanent program to provide HIV prophylaxis for survivors of sexual assault free of charge
- **Enhanced** patient ability to establish advance directives in electronic health records